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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 24, 2003

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Patterson Supports Operation Adopt-A-Family

Operation will provide community resource information to the families of troops

LANSING – As the nation begins a war with Iraq, Operation Adopt-A-Family provides families of military personnel who have been deployed information on financial, emotional and spiritual support available in Michigan communities, Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, announced today.

“The deployment of our troops has left many holes in Michigan families. While they are overseas fighting for our freedom, we as Michiganders can help fill those gaps left by their absence,” Patterson said. “While they may be gone from our homes, they're with us in our hearts. This is one way we can show our troops that the home they left behind will be in safe hands, waiting for them to return.”

The operation will provide help for families in three ways, linked together by encouraging local organizations to “adopt” families who may need assistance:

- Local organizations will be enlisted to help families in their search to alleviate hardships directly resulting from the deployment of their spouses or parents.
- Partnerships will be formed between the local organizations and public service groups within communities to maintain an “adoptive” relationship with the families of Michigan’s deployed military personnel.
- Support will be generated from the general public and the Legislature to provide funding for the Family Support Network.

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Organizations who want to participate may contact Patterson's office to learn about requests for assistance in their neighborhoods.

The following is a list of participating organizations and their contact information:

| Organizations | Phone Number | Internet Address |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Michigan Bankers Association | (517) 485-3600 | |
| Michigan Sheriffs Association | (800) 875-5500 | |
| www.michigansheriff.com | | |
| American Legion | (800) 504-4098 | |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars | | |
| www.bu.mvcc.com/vfwmi | | |
| Catholic Social Services | | www.css-svh.org |
| Salvation Army | (517) 484-4424 | |
| Michigan Family Forum | | www.fatherhood.org |
| Michigan Works! | (800) 285-WORKS | |
| www.michiganworks.org | | |
| Holy Spirit Catholic Church | (810) 231-9199 | |
| Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church | (810) 227-9411 | |
| Michigan National Guard Family Support | (517) 702-5116 | |
| Michigan Association of School Boards | | www.masb.org |

Note: Audio comments from Senator Patterson is available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000, or online at the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/>.

Photographs of the press conference is also available on the Michigan Senate Photowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.